

## ARE WE UP TO IT?

(Mr. EDWARDS of Alabama (at the request of Mr. HUTCHINSON) was granted permission to extend his remarks at this point in the Record and to include extraneous matter.)

Mr. EDWARDS of Alabama. Mr. Speaker, the recent incident in which our State Department was acutely embarrassed in first denying and then admitting a charge made against us by the Singapore Prime Minister suggests once again that perhaps the United States is simply not meeting the tests of world leadership, particularly in Asia.

Furthermore, it appears likely that other nations have understood this for some time, and we as Americans have not grasped it yet. There must be a strong feeling in halls of governments around the world that the Johnson administration, like the Kennedy administration before it, lacks a basic understanding of how to handle U.S. relations with Asian nations.

Two days ago Pakistan's Government issued a sharp challenge to us to use our influence to stop the Pakistan-India conflict. There may be several meanings attached to that challenge. But whatever else it may be, it is an indication of the low respect with which Asian nations view our ability to adequately deal with Asian affairs.

The Singapore affair is further discussed in the following editorial from the Birmingham Post Herald of September 9:

## FOOT IN UNCLE'S MOUTH

Every once in a while, somebody opens his mouth and puts his foot, not in it, but in Uncle Sam's. That hurts us all.

We don't know the exact ins and outs of the charge by Singapore Prime Minister Lee Kuan Yew that back in 1960 a bribe of \$3 million was offered by a CIA agent and that later a letter of apology arrived from incoming Secretary of State Dean Rusk, along with a statement that the new Kennedy administration would not countenance such goings on.

We do know that both at the State Department and in Malaysia on Tuesday, U.S. spokesmen denied flatly that the incident ever occurred. And that on Wednesday, the State Department discovered the Rusk letter after Lee revealed he had not only a copy of it but a tape recording of conversations with the CIA agent.

The point at issue is not to criticize Mr. Lee, who apparently brought up the matter for domestic political reasons. Nor is it to castigate the CIA, since details of the original affair are obscure.

What bothers us—and considerably—is that the State Department could be so positive on one day that nothing of the sort ever happened and so positive on the next day that it did.

In the famous U-2 incident which also occurred in 1960, misrepresentation by U.S. officials made this country look ridiculous in the eyes of the world. Handling of this latest affair gives us reason to wonder if our official spokesmen really have learned anything since then.

STATINTL

I want also to include in my remarks an editorial on the same subject which was broadcast over stations WBRC and WBRC-TV in Birmingham on September 8:

## NO ESPIONAGE EXPERTS—THE UNITED STATES

Once again the United States has jumped into a situation involving foreign relations with both left feet. Why do we always have to get caught in a lie, and then turn around and admit it, branding ourselves as liars before the whole world?

What if we did want information available in Singapore in 1960 bad enough to pay \$3 million for it? We are engaged in the intelligence business, and we'd better stay in it as effectively as possible.

We don't know what prompted Singapore's Prime Minister, Lee Kuan Yew to bring up the matter of a State Department apology dated April 15, 1961, at this late date, but he minced no words over the State Department's denial of his charges that the U.S. Government offered him a \$3 million bribe to keep quiet about the arrest of a Central Intelligence Agency operative who allegedly tried to buy state secrets. Lee said the U.S. Government was stupidly denying the undeniable and threatened documentation. At this point the State Department admitted the whole incident.

If our State Department does not yet know that to the oriental mind honor and face come before even life itself, it's time they learned. Prime Minister Lee could not have done other than he did, throwing the matter full in the face of the U.S. Government.

This is getting to be too much of a habit with our country: President Eisenhower and the U-2 flights over Russia, first denied, then admitted; President Kennedy and the missiles in Cuba, first denied, then admitted.

It would be much better if we announced to all that we intend to use any means at hand to gain the information necessary for our continued survival and well-being. Doesn't everyone?

(Mr. MOORE (at the request of Mr. HUTCHINSON) was granted permission to extend his remarks at this point in the Record and to include extraneous matter.)

[Mr. MOORE'S remarks will appear hereafter in the Appendix.]